

Claims

What is claimed is

1. A control messaging system comprising:

5 means to connect an optical cable to a multi-service platform at one end and a cross-connect at the other;

within said optical cable, a number of optical fibres assigned for the transmission of data, at least one of said optical fibres being assigned for used as a provisioning data path;

an Operations, Administration, Maintenance and Provisioning (OAM&P) subsystem connected to said provisioning data path at said cross-connect;

10 means to signal a source identity to said OAM&P subsystem over said provisioning data path from said multi-service platform; and

means to signal a destination identity to said OAM&P subsystem from said cross-connect.

2. A system as in claim 1 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an additional optical fibre within said optical cable.

3. A system as in claim 1 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an additional 'colour' on a fibre used for the transmission of data.

4. A system as in claim 1 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an electrical circuit within said optical cable.

- 20 5. A system as in claim 1 wherein a means is provided to signal, at the time of logical provisioning, from said multi-service platform, over said provisioning data path to said OAM&P subsystem, the bit-rate and protocol to be used.

6. A method of provisioning a system comprising the steps of;

starting a process at a first entry;

- 25 plugging in a cable to connect a cross-connect, viz. the destination, and a multi-service platform, viz. the source;

forwarding the destination identity to an operations, administration, maintenance and provisioning (OAM&P) subsystem; and

forwarding the source identity to an operations, administration, maintenance and provisioning subsystem over a uniquely assigned provisioning data path within said cable.

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7. The method of claim 6 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an additional optical fibre within said optical cable.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an additional 'colour' on a fibre used for the transmission of data.

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9. The method of claim 6 wherein said provisioning data path is provided as an electrical circuit within said optical cable.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the last of said forwarding steps is followed by the step of transferring source parameters, such as bit-rate and protocol, to said operations, administration, maintenance and provisioning subsystem over said uniquely assigned path within said cable.

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11. The method of claim 10 wherein said source parameters are selected from a group consisting of bit-rate and protocol.

12. The method of claim 6 wherein the last of said forwarding steps is followed by the steps of:

starting a process at a second entry

checking whether a physical connection exists; and

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if said physical connection exists, transferring source parameters to said operations, administration, maintenance and provisioning subsystem over said uniquely assigned path within said cable or bundle.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said source parameters are selected from a group consisting of bit-rate and protocol.

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